

2018 Neal Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award



Brad and Angie Barber noticed something missing from the small town of Clear Lake. The bustling tourist destination seemed to have everything except a cozy gathering place on Main Street. The Barbers founded Cabin Coffee in 2002 to fill this need. Once the idea was formed the Barbers sought help from The North Iowa Area Pappajohn SBDC to help with franchising and growing their business model in 2003. Cabin coffee has continued to steadily grow over the last 15 years and the Barbers remain committed to their community.

Brad and Angie launched cabin coffee with the intention of rooting their family in the North Iowa Region and are passionate about staying true to their origins and growing their business in North Iowa. With a deep commitment to the community Cabin Coffee makes a point to work with other local Iowa Businesses at all levels. Cabin Coffee and each of their franchisees use fellow North Iowa Area Pappajohn SBDC client, Freedom Financial of Mason City, Iowa for all accounting needs. They also work with a Des Moines based law firm for all intellectual property needs.

Cabin Coffee has now grown to 15 locations with two company-owned stores and 13 franchises across Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Colorado, and Georgia. The Barbers have resolved to remain headquartered in North Iowa no matter how big the business grows. As well as supporting other local businesses Brad and Angie also support local youth entrepreneurial programs and education. They have been key contributors to the Youth Entrepreneurial Academy (YEA) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) as well as working as mentors for the students in YEA. Brad and Angie have also been active supporters of recent local economic development initiatives such as the North Iowa strategic plan project, Riverside Renaissance project, and founded a local organization, United We Serve, that encourages grassroots involvement in all aspects of community enrichment.

Brook Boehmler, director of NIACC Pappajohn SBDC said "Brad and Angie Barber are an example of what makes doing business in Iowa so great. Growing our entrepreneur community is just as important to them as it is to America's SBDC and the Pappajohn Center, but they never forget to 'Just be happy...and have fun!' Brad and Angie put their community and customers first, and growth follows. We could not be more proud of this North Iowa Landmark that is taking these principles nationwide"



You can visit Cabin Coffee's website at <https://cabincoffeecompany.com/>, or read the latest about what is happening with the business on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CabinCoffeeClearLake/>.